

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NOS. 2017-207-E, 2017-305-E, 2017-370-E, and 2020-106-A  
ORDER NO. 2020-313

APRIL 28, 2020

IN RE:	Docket No. 2017-207-E – Friends of the Earth and Sierra Club, Complainants/Petitioners v. Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (f/k/a South Carolina Electric & Gas Company), Defendant/Respondent	)	PRELIMINARY ORDER ON NEW ELECTRIC RATE CASE FOR DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.
	Docket No. 2017-305-E – Request of the Office of Regulatory Staff for Rate Relief to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s (f/k/a South Carolina Electric & Gas Company) Rates Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-27-920	)	
	Docket No. 2017-370-E – Joint Application and Petition of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and Dominion Energy, Inc. for Review and Approval of a Proposed Business Combination between SCANA Corporation and Dominion Energy, Incorporated, as May Be Required, and for a Prudency Determination Regarding the Abandonment of the V.C. Summer Units 2 & 3 Project and Associated Customer Benefits and Cost Recovery Plans	)	
	Docket No. 2020-106-A – Actions in Response to COVID-19	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“the Commission”) for consideration of various issues raised by the April 1, 2020, letter of counsel for Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (“Dominion” or “the Company”) with regard to proposed modifications to provisions of Commission Order No. 2018-804 and other orders of this Commission which relate to the proposed filing of a future electric

rate case. Under the language of Order No. 2018-804, this future rate case is intended, in part, to confer benefits resulting from the merger of Dominion and South Carolina Electric & Gas Company upon the ratepayers of the resultant merged Company.

Dominion notes that Order No. 2018-804 instructed it to file a general electric rate case no earlier than May 1, 2020, to ensure that actual merger savings are reflected in retail rates on a timely basis. Additionally, the Commission established the historical test period as the twelve-months ended December 31, 2019, updated for known and measurable changes as of September 30, 2020, with rates effective January 1, 2021. *See* Order No. 2018-804, dated December 18, 2018, at page 105 and Order Exhibit 1 at page 9.

Dominion states that, due to the difficulty and uncertainty during the present time as the result of COVID-19, and being mindful of the State of Emergency in South Carolina as declared by Governor McMaster, the Company requests that this Commission issue an order extending the January 2021 deadline for new rates to take effect by sixty days until March 8, 2021, which is the date of the Company's first billing cycle of March 2021. Dominion points to Order No. 2020-259, which granted a sixty-day stay in a pending sewer service rate case as being consistent with the relief sought in the present case. The Company notes that, if the Commission grants Dominion's request, the Company will not be required to file its application in this matter before August 15, 2020. Dominion proposes maintaining the proposed historical test period as the twelve-months ended December 31, 2019; however, the Company requests permission to update its test period results for known and measurable matters as of November 30, 2020, and not as of September 30, 2020, as provided for in Order No. 2018-804 at page 105.

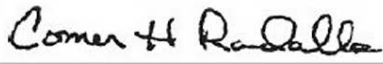
At the present time, we agree that a delay in the filing date for electric rate relief and a delay in the date on which new rates, if any, would be implemented is appropriate, due to issues presented by COVID-19, and due to the South Carolina State of Emergency proclaimed by Governor McMaster. Accordingly, Dominion will not be required to file for electric rate relief on May 1, 2020, nor will Dominion be required to place new rates, if any, in effect on January 1, 2021, as previously ordered by Commission Order No. 2018-804 and other Commission Orders. The original Order language requiring these actions by the listed dates is hereby vacated, as is language in any other orders of this Commission concerning the filing date for this electric rate case and the effective date of any new rates.

In addition, the Commission Staff shall open a separate docket to address the new Dominion electric rate case that will be filed, as described herein.


Finally, this Commission will revisit the procedural issues related to this rate case in upcoming weeks during the Commission business meeting.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Comer H. "Randy" Randall, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk/Executive Director